THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government has authorised FCI to undertake open sale of wheat in various States/UTs with certain stipulations after meeting the requirements of PDS. The sale is open to all including Roller Flour Mills/traders etc. A quantity of 4.30 lakh tonnes (Provisional) has been sold by FCI in open sale during April-June, 1996.

(c) Wholesale Price Index of wheat products has moved as under :-

Base 1981-82=100

Commodity	25.5.96	1.6.96	29.6.96
Grain Mill Products	299.5	297.9	298.7
Maida	265.9	263.9	269.9
Suji	255.7	255.7	261.3
Atta	319.2	319.2	319.8

(d) State Governments/UTs have been requested to ensure that the prices of wheat and wheat products remain at levels in conformity with the open sale prices of wheat. Open sale of wheat for domestic consumption is also continuing.

Decontrol of Sugar

979. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1369 on December 5, 1995 and state :

(a) whether the claim of the Maharashtra Government has been paid to them;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. The Maharashtra Government has been requested to provide in support of its claim copies of the advise to sell the sugar at below cost price. The same has not yet been received.

[Translation]

Production of Steel

980. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) the production of steel during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) the target fixed for production of steel during 1995-96 by the Bokaro Steel Plant and whether it has been achieved; and

(c) the profit earned or loss incurred by the Bokaro Steel Plant during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The production of finished steel during the last three years was as follows :-

(in million tonnes)

Year	Quantity
1993-94	15.20
1994-95	17.82
1995-96 (Prov.)	21.69

(b) Tartgets are fixed for SAIL Plants in terms of saleable steel. The target for Bokaro Steel Plant during 1995-96 was 3220 thousand tonnes of saleable steel and production was 3330 thousand tonnes, 103% of the target.

(c) The year-wise profit earned by Bokaro Steel Plant during the last three years is given below :-

(Rs. in crores)

1993-94	467.82
1994-95	662.21
1995-96	805.95

[English]

Flight between Calicut-Bombay

981. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Indian Airlines flights between Calicut and Bombay into a domestic flight;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The flight from Calicut to Bombay is domestic leg of an international flight catering to passengers ex-Calicut/Bombay to Gulf and vice-versa. Its conversion into a domestic flight will cause hardship to Gulf bound passengers from Calicut.

Unmilled Paddy

982. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that over 30 lakh tonnes of paddy are lying unmilled in Punjab;

(b) if so, since when it is pending;

(c) whether it is also a fact that millers have refused to mill these paddy;

(d) if so, the reasons of their refusal; and

(e) the alternate arrangements made by the Government to mill these paddy?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). A quantity of 11.57 lakh tonnes of paddy is lying unmilled in Punjab, of which a quantity 4.84 lakh tonnes is 1994-95 crop paddy and the remaining 6.73 lakh tonnes is 1995-96 crop paddy.

(c) and (d). The entire quantity of 11.57 lakh tonnes of unmilled paddy, except 1.35 lakh tonnes, has been contracted for milling. The millers are under contractual obligation to complete the milling of the contracted quantity of paddy. The millers, however, showed an unco-operative attitude in milling of 1994-95 crop paddy by demanding relaxations in the broken percentage far beyond the prescribed limits. The relaxation in the percentage of broken upto 30% was allowed upto 30.9.95. The pace of milling however did not improve. Those stocks of 1994-95 paddy which are found, after inspection, unsuitable for milling into FAO rice, are being disposed of through auction. The milling of 1995-96 crop paddy is in progress.

(e) To expedite milling of 1995-96 crop paddy, following important steps have been taken :

(i) Sanction of an additional incentive of Rs. 5/- per qtl. over and above the normal milling charges for milling of paddy into parboiled rice.

(ii) Shifting of paddy to neighbouring States of U.P., Haryana and Rajasthan for milling. A total quantity of 3.23 lakh tonnes has been despatched to other States so far.

(iii) Rice obtained from milling of 1994-95 paddy purchased by millers was exempted from levy obligations.

Sugar Factories

983. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the President of National Federation of Co-operative Sugar factories to ameliorate sugar mills plight;

(b) if so, the salient features of the memorandum; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). The National Federation of Cooperative Sugar Factories Ltd. have submitted a representation on 12.6.1996 in respect of the following problems of cooperative sugar factories :

(i) Finance for new sugar factories and those for working cooperative sugar factories.

(ii) Revision of levy sugar price for 1995-96 season.

(iii) Creation of buffer stock.

(iv) Sugar Export, and

(v) Licensing of sugar industry.

(c) The representation is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Primitive Tribes

984. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the primitive tribes living in different parts of the country, State-wise.

(b) the details of their population as per the latest census, State-wise.

(c) whether there is a growing decline in the population of these tribes;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor.

(e) the schemes drawn up by the Union Government for upliftment of these tribes.

(f) whether the Union Government propose to preserve the tribal language and their culture, and

(g) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) A statement is laid on the table of the House (Statement-I).

(b) The population of primitive tribal groups according to 1991 census is not available. However, the available information as per 1981 census is laid on the table of the House (Statement-II).

(c) A statement indicating Twelve tribes showing decline in their population is laid on the table of the House (Statement-III).

(d) Though R.G.I. has reported inter-state migration, under-enumeration etc. as possible reasons for this